

Exhibit B

"CLEAN" VERSION OF SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Referring now to FIG. 2, the inner sleeve 40 has a first end 42 over which the hose 30 is mounted and a second end 44 that is a termination point or acts to engage other components of the air-conditioning system. An outer diameter 45 of the inner sleeve 40 has outward projections 46 or serrations that engage and seal against an inner diameter 32 of the hose 30.

According to the preferred embodiment, the reinforcing ring 20 is made of a rigid material, such as steel, but may be made of any other suitable material such as nylon or plastic. The width of the reinforcing ring 20 is only that that is necessary to support the inner sleeve 40 concentric with the area of peak crimp force 36. The reinforcing ring is as discrete as possible and is therefore not subject to beam deflection as are reinforcements of the prior art.

Still referring to Fig. 2, the outer diameter of the reinforcing ring 20 is slightly larger than the inner diameter 50 of the inner sleeve 40. The reinforcing ring 20 is press fit into the inner diameter 50 of the inner sleeve 40. The press-fit may be controlled by a stop on a mandrel press (not shown), to ensure the reinforcing member 20 is properly located within the inner sleeve 40.